

WASHINGTON- Today, Congressman Todd Akin, (R-MO), a member of the Small Business Committee called on President Obama to do an honest assessment of the real frustration by small business owners that is being exacerbated by big government mandates, high tax burdens and proposals for even more bureaucratic red-tape by his Administration.

On April 26th, two days prior to President Obama's travel to Macon, Missouri to discuss economic recovery, Congressman Akin held a meeting with local business leaders at 311 North Main Street in St. Charles, Missouri to discuss what Congress and the Administration could do to help small business prosper and create jobs.

Approximately 100 small business owners joined in a town hall type discussion. Was there a consensus? Yes. Washington needs to address the high tax burdens and bureaucratic red-tape. Further, the Obama Administration was seen as advancing legislation and policies that were undermining the strength of our economy as well as the confidence and success of small business owners. None of the business owners present believed that the stimulus bill had helped them create one real job.

"I heard real frustration with the Obama Administration and what appears to be a legislative war against business," said Akin. "Small business owners are troubled by high levels of taxation, the costly Wall Street bailout, lack of access to funds by lenders, heavy handed mandates in the new socialized medicine bill and feel threatened overall by a callous disregard for the business community."

"And it does not look like the Administration is hearing the small business owner on Main Street, but is looking toward more job killing legislation such as the Cap and Trade bill that will increase energy costs," said Akin. "With this veritable war on business by the Obama Administration we have a business environment without any sense of confidence and a general disinclination to create new jobs."

The event was broadcast an USTREAM allowing people to follow the forum from off-site locations. You may access the conference at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/6459499/highlight/69064>